

Message Text

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1. HIGHLIGHTS. RECENT PAPERS HAVE HIGHLIGHTED DOMESTIC AND NON-EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTS; SOME FRIDAY PAPERS FRONT-PAGED SOVIET DESTROYER REPORTED SUNK IN BLACK SEA; TODAY'S WASHPOST FRONTPAGES SOVIETS ALLOW UNOFFICIAL ARTISTS TO EXHIBIT. LITTLE COMMENT. NOTHING PERTINENT IN TIME OR NEWSWEEK.

1A. FRIDAY NYTIMES INSIDE HAD PENTAGON ACTING TO GUARD ATOMIC ARMS, PLANS TO DETER TERRORISTS OVERSEAS; BALTSUN REPORTED PENTAGON SAID ATOMIC ARMS ARE FAIL-SAFE; ALSO HAD MOSCOW STORY, SOVIET DENIES MOVING TROOPS TO HUNGARIAN-YUGOSLAV BORDER.

1B. SATURDAY NYTIMES HAD FINNEY REPORTING PENTAGON SILENT ON COST OF ARMS RACE IN BIG MISSILES, ALSO TEHRAN, SHAH SUGGESTS INDIAN OCEAN AREA NATIONS JOIN IN COLLECTIVE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS TO CURB NAVAL POWER OF US AND SOVIET UNION. SUNDAY WASHPOST HAD SAIGON, MOSCOW PEKING CUT HANOI MILITARY AID; ALSO MOSCOW, SOVIET STILL FIRM ON DETENTE. MONDAY WASHPOST HAS HARRIS SURVEY INDICATING

DECLINE IN CONFIDENCE IN THE MILITARY AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

2. SATURDAY NYTIMES FINNEY SAID DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS REFUSED TO MAKE PUBLIC ITS ESTIMATE OF A CONTINUED STRATEGIC ARMS RACE WITH SOVIET UNION, FINNEY ADDING DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION HAS DRAWN UP PROJECTIONS ON ADDITIONS TO THE DEFENSE BUDGET IF NO AGREEMENT IS REACHED AT SALT, INCLUDING TWO PROGRAMS BEGUN THIS YEAR AS A HEDGE AGAINST A COLLAPSE OF SALT: A LARGER ICBM TO SUPPLEMENT MINUTEMEN AND A MISSILE WITH A 1,000-MILE RANGE THAT COULD BE LAUNCHED FROM EITHER A SUBMARINE OR A SHIP. ACCORDING FINNEY, ON BASIS OF EXPERIENCE EACH WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY COST IN EXCESS OF TEN BILLIONS TO DEVELOP, PRODUCE AND DEPLOY, SO IT CAN BE ROUGHLY ASSUMED THAT WITHOUT A SALT AGREEMENT AND IF PENTAGON GOES AHEAD AT LEAST TWO TO THREE BILLIONS WOULD BE ADDED TO DEFENSE BUDGET ANNUALLY. ACCORDING FINNEY, PENTAGON'S BEECHER SAID THEY DON'T HAVE GOOD PROJEC-
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TIONS BECAUSE WEAPONS ARE STILL IN EARLY STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT. FINNEY SAID PENTAGON PUBLICITY ABOUT SOVIET COSTS IN DEPLOYING MISSILES IS DESIGNED TO UNDERSCORE THE ENORMOUS COST OF AN UNCHECKED STRATEGIC-ARMS RACE, AS WHEN SCHLESINGER TESTIFIED LAST MARCH IT WOULD COST RUSSIANS 42 BILLIONS TO REPLACE ALL THEIR LARGE MISSILES. FINNEY ADDED PENTAGON'S INVESTIGATION OF RECENT NEWS LEAKS IS LIMITED TO PENTAGON OFFICIALS AND DOESN'T

INVOLVE WIRETAPS ON REPORTERS, ACCORDING FRIEDHEIM WHO IS RETIRING FROM PENTAGON TO BECOME A VICE PRESIDENT OF AMTRAK.

3. POLL. LOUIS HARRIS, PRESENTING LATEST FINDINGS OF HIS ANNUAL POLL ON CONFIDENCE IN AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS, REPORTS THAT PUBLIC CONFIDENCE HAS CONTINUED TO FALL DESPITE NIXON'S RESIGNATION, ALTHOUGH THE PROPORTION EXPRESSING A GREAT DEAL OF CONFIDENCE IN EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS RISEN FROM 19 PERCENT IN 1973 TO 28 PERCENT, AND IN SUPREME COURT FROM 33 PERCENT TO 40 PERCENT, BUT THE FIGURE FOR CONGRESS HAS DECLINED FROM 29 TO 18 PERCENT DESPITE PUBLIC APPRECIATION FOR THE WAY IT HANDLED THE IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS. THOSE EXPRESSING A GREAT DEAL OF CONFIDENCE IN THE MILITARY DECLINED FROM 40 TO 33 PERCENT, A FIGURE BELOW THE 35 PERCENT OF 1972, LET ALONE THE 62 PERCENT IN 1966. BIGGEST OTHER DECLINES OVER LAST YEAR ARE: TELEVISION NEWS FROM 41 TO 31; MAJOR COMPANIES 29 TO 21; MEDICINE 57 TO 50. POLL WAS TAKEN EARLIER THIS MONTH.

4. COMMENT. SEPT 23 ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH EDITORIAL

ON SALT II NOTED PENTAGON CONCERN THAT WITH PRESENT LAUNCHER AND THROW-WEIGHT ADVANTAGES AND PROGRESS ON MIRVS THE USSR COULD OUTDISTANCE THE US IN THE '80'S, ALSO THAT IF US BUILDING PROGRAMS ARE CONTINUED US WILL HAVE 9000 SEPARATELY TARGETED WARHEADS TO RUSSIA'S 7000 IN 1980. EDITORIAL SAYS THAT FORD ADMINISTRATION CURRENTLY SEEMS UNDECIDED ON PROPOSALS AND SOVIET INTENTIONS, WITH KISSINGER URGING A PIECEMEAL APPROACH TO DISARMAMENT, SCHLESINGER WANTING A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT, AND RUSK SEEKING AVOIDANCE OF COMPLEX FORMULA FOR A SIMPLER PACT

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LIMITING THE NUMBER OF WEAPONS. POST-DISPATCH FINDS KISSINGER'S STRATEGY THE ONLY ONE LIKELY TO ACHIEVE RESULTS AND THEREFORE, THE APPROACH FORD SHOULD SUPPORT IF HE WANTS PROGRESS AT SALT II. INGERSOLL

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